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THOUGHTS

CONCERNING THE

PRESENT CRITICAL SITUATION

OF

EUROPE.

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CONCERNING THE
PRESENT CRITICAL SITUATION
OF
EUROPE,

ADDRESSED TO THE KING,
AND
BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.

BY
A FRIEND TO HIS COUNTRY.

BLAME WHERE WE MUST, BE CANDID WHERE WE CAN.

L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR T. HOOKHAM, NEW BOND STREET.

1791.

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THERE perhaps never was a moment in which Britain might exert her influence over the affairs of the rest of Europe with more advantage and glory to this country than in the present juncture; and if neglected now, will probably be irrecoverably lost. It seems pretty evident, that France, which always has been, and probably

bably will ever continue to be, the natural and most formidable enemy of this country, will, when the rage of levelling is a little subsided, appear more flourishing than ever, the government will be rescued from its old principles of despotism and prodigality, and liberty brought within reasonable bounds, will prove the source of trade, manufactures, personal security, and toleration. The Family Compact, so advantageous to the house of Bourbon, will naturally continue to subsist in its full force; and the other dominions of the Bourbons, gradually modelling their governments on the improved plan and liberal spirit of

of that of France, will present an association dangerous to the rest of Europe, and in the first instance, probably subversive, if not of the existence, at least of the prosperity and power of this country. The object of our political efforts ought then to be, to set on foot alliances, or rather a league, to counteract that formidable compact. It appears that Prussia and Sweden are by no means alone sufficient, and that we will rather be involved in wars to assist them, than that they can be the means of supporting our greatness; it would therefore be expedient to make use of our present consequence in mediating a
peace

peace so agreeable to Austria, Russia, and Prussia, as not only to gain their united alliance, but to make them agree to some cessions from other states in our favour, as might tend greatly to increase our wealth, trade, and navigation, and give us a consequence in the Mediterranean, that might in future prevent any possibility of the fleets of the house of Bourbon being ever united against us.

It seems evident that it coincides more with the principles of religion, humanity, and justice, to dismember the anarchical country of Poland, which being elective is no one's property, and to curtail

curtail the barbarous immensity of Turkey, than to suffer the present war to continue, and become more general, and innumerable future ones to arise, which may be the means of sending millions of unprepared souls into eternity, and of producing the greatest calamities to the unfortunate widows and orphans of those unhappy sufferers.

A Minister of glorious memory (when his brother-in-law was using his utmost endeavours to check smuggling from Jamaica to the Spanish Main) said, that he never expected to have seen the first Minister of England acting

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the part of a Spanish custom-house officer; what then must his feelings be, when looking down from the world above, he beholds his darling son, the rival, in some things the superior, of his own great endowments; when he beholds that son, in other instances, the pride, the honour of his country, now metamorphosed into the abettor of the restless disposition of Prussia? For your country's sake, Mr. Pitt—for your own—for the repose of the manes of an illustrious parent, suffer yourself no longer to be led astray by the narrow-minded policy, by the envy of a foreign potentate, who, blinded by personal resentment, mistakes

mistakes the interest of his kingdom, and sacrifices the prosperity of his dominions, and of his family, to the gratification of his self-love, which was wounded, perhaps wantonly, and without doubt, impolitically, during his visit to a northern court. Remain no longer, Sir, the tool of a German Prince, but stand forth in the honourable, the dignified, the self-approving capacity of the peacemaker, the mediator of Europe, and the aggrandizer of the British empire. Unsheathe not the sword of destruction, nor order the murderous cannon to roar from our floating batteries, but in the heavenly arts of pacific

negociation, second the views of our pious and humane Sovereign, who feels that the first duty of a Christian Prince is to œconomise the innocent blood of his fellow creatures, and in a particular manner of those whom providence has more especially entrusted to his care, and who is aware of the serenity of the dying moments of those few monarchs, who can breathe their last, taking God to witness, that the lives of men were never sacrificed to their boundless ambition, to their inordinate lust of power, nor to the mistaken combination of ill-judged and unfruitful alliances.—

Commit not violence on the gentle

the nature of a Sovereign, who
 knows he can only ask of God,
 “ That mercy I to others show,
 “ that mercy show to me.”

If some active measure must be
 devised to settle the contending
 interests of the different powers
 of Europe, adopt the most effec-
 tual, as well as the least ob-
 noxious, prefer a peaceful parti-
 tion to a cruel war. By the first,
 all parties may gain ; by the last,
 as generally happens after long
 and bloody wars, the belligerent
 powers, for want of the sinews
 of war, are forced to put their
 swords in their scabbard, only
 waiting for a fresh opportunity to
 assert

assert their claims, or revenge their supposed wrongs.

To accomplish the laudable purpose of pacification, I would propose the following hasty sketch of arrangement among the most considerable powers, to be mutually guaranteed by them all, and a perpetual congress to be held at Frankfort on the Main, (afterwards to be the seat of the Diet of the empire) for the purpose of settling the disputes that might at any future period arise among them, by timeously explaining, and adjusting the misunderstanding, before it could be kindled into the destructive flames of war.

With

With this view, let us suppose Russia to get from Poland the Palatinates of Kiof and Bracklack, with liberty to exchange part of them for small corners of those of Minsk and Polock, to give a better boundary, and also to get the Dutchy of Courland—To acquire from Sweden the Dutchy of Finland, with that corner of Lapland to the east of the river Kimi — From Turkey that small province inhabited by the Tartars of Ocza-cow and Bessarabia, and on the other side of the Black Sea, to acquire that district of Circassia to the south of the river Cuban, with Mingrelia and Imititia Georgia and Armenia and the Dar-

Daghestan to be freed from the vassalage of Turkey; the navigation of the Black Sea and Bosphorus to be open to all nations, and the Dardanelles, and forts on the canal of Constantinople to be destroyed; Russia also to acquire some small islands on the Archipelago, as a refuge for their shipping in winter, or in storms.

Austria to acquire from the Turks that part of Wallachia to the east of the river Sereth, with Widin, and that part of Bulgaria to the west of the river Ogeſt—to get Servia, Bosnia, Turkish Croatia, and Dalmatia, with that small part of Albania to the north
of

of the Drina—to get the Venetian Dalmatia and Istria, in exchange for Mantua and the Cremoneze—to get all the circle of Bavaria, including the bishopricks, and those of Trent, Brixen, and Augs-
burgh, with the different sovereign abbacies in Suabia, and the Principality of Mindelheim, and also the County of Glatz. But to give up the Netherlands, and to yield the remainder of the Dutchy of Milan to the King of Sardinia.

Prussia to acquire from Poland the Palatinate of Mazovia, Polish Sandomir and Cracow, with that part of Poland included between them and Prussia and Silesia, per-
c haps

haps also to add the Palatinates of Bieltz and Lublin.

Sweden to get Samogitia, the Palatinate of Bressici, and the country between them—Vohlnia, Chelm, and the Polish part of the Palatinate of Podolia, to be given to the Duke of Brunswic—Moldavia, Wallachia to the east of Sereth, with the islands in the mouth of the Danube, to be erected into an independent Principality — Prussia to acquire in Germany the dominions of the Elector of Saxony, who will get the Austrian Low Countries, which ought to be erected into an electorate and kingdom — or,
Prussia

Prussia to get Hanover, the Elector of Hanover being indemnified by the Low Countries. Prussia to exchange Mecklenburgh Shewrin with Anspatch and Bareith, and Strelitz to be indemnified by some of the ecclesiastical Principalities; and Prussia to get in place of the county of Glatz, Swedish Pomerania and Oldenburgh; the Duke of Oldenburgh getting the Bishoprick of Munster or of Liege, and Lubec to be ceded to Denmark — the Elector of Bavaria either to get the Bishopricks of Wurtzburgh, Bamberg, Spire, Fuld, and Worms, or to get the Low Countries — the King of Great Britain to add to his Electorate

torate of Hanover the Dutchy of Brunswic, and the Bishopricks of Hildesheim, Paderborn and Osna-burgh — and to acquire as an addition to Britain, Tangiers, the islands of Candia and Rhodes, with the port and territory of Smyrna, and perhaps the Morea, and the island of Cyprus. The Archduke Ferdinand to get Ferrara along with the succession of Modena.—Perhaps it might be better to give to Denmark that part of Sweden to the west of the river Kymi, and to erect into a kingdom for the King of Sweden all that part of Poland which remains, after what was proposed to be given off to Russia and Prussia,

Prussia, and to add to the King of Sweden's share, that small district of Prussia to the east of the river Ruffe, in place of which, the King of Prussia might get the Bishopric of Lubec. Or to give the above-mentioned part of Poland to the King of Denmark, and to give the King of Sweden, in place of Finland, &c., all the Danish dominions except Holstein, to be given either to the King of Prussia, or the Elector of Hanover; and to give to the Duke of Brunswick Moldavia and part of Walachia—or, suppose Holstein to be given to Sweden, and Iceland to Britain—or, the King of Prussia might
get

get all Poland, except what was to be given to Russia, also the north part of Moldavia, and exchange Silesia, Anspach, and Bareith, with Austria, for Galicia and Lodomiria. Sweden, in place of Finland, to acquire Pomerania, or at least that part of it to the west of the Oder, with that part of Bandenburgh to the west of the same river, and Mecklenburgh; the Dukes of Meklenburgh to be indemnified by Wurtzburg, Bamberg, and Fulde. The Prussian dominions in Westphalia to be given to the Elector of Hanover, the King of Denmark, and the Duke of Brunswic, who might also get Halberstadt. The Austrian

trian Netherlands, with the Principality of Liege, to be given to the Elector Palatine.

To consolidate the general harmony, the King of England's two eldest daughters might be married to the two Princes of Prussia; the Great Duke of Russia's eldest daughter, or the Princess Elizabeth of England, might be married to the Prince of Sweden, and the Great Duke's two sons to the Princesses Mary and Sophia of England. By which last alliance, both Russia and England would be benefited in the highest degree. As the Imperial family is not strong in numbers,

numbers, the Empress will probably wish to see her two grandsons married early in life ; they will find in the Princesses Mary and Sophia, wives a little older than themselves, which ought to be both for the moral and physical purposes of marriage, where the husbands are young ; they will be of an age and strength of constitution to give healthy children, which is a circumstance particularly desirable for sovereigns, on whose actions and conduct the happiness of millions depends ; for there cannot exist the *mens sana, sine corpore sano*.

From

From the very admirable education and example these Princesses receive from their illustrious, wise, and virtuous parents, they bid fair to unite to their external graces every virtue and accomplishment, and by their mutual friendship and union, will preserve that harmony so desirable to be maintained between the two brothers, their royal consorts. Their protection will also ensure to Russia a concourse of British manufacturers and artists, and will obtain in England every possible assistance to Russians, when sent into this country to acquire the principles of agriculture, medicine, manufactures, and commerce,

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which are to be obtained alone in this industrious and enlightened island, and are of infinitely more importance to Russia in its present infant state, than the flimsy arts and seducing polish of France; by studying which, before the arts of the first necessity are brought to perfection, they, instead of adding to the strength and prosperity of their empire, only lay on an outward varnish on unsound materials, with which, however much the superficial beholder may be dazzled, will fall an easy sacrifice to the rude touch of the first hostile hand.

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The advantages to England, from a strict alliance with Russia, are so numerous and so essential, that they cannot escape the slightest observation, much less can they be supposed to have eluded the vigilant eye of an enlightened Administration. The old proverb of peace with Spain and war with all the world, may with much more justice be applied to Russia, a country which, from its natural productions, can supply all our wants, and will require for generations to come, an immense supply from our manufactures. In a growing state, agriculture is so much more necessary

and beneficial, that manufactures ought not to be cherished. It is by the plough and the spade that population must be multiplied, and the climate improved by cultivation and draining, so that every new subject acquired by Russia, will be a new consumer gained to our industrious merchant, and ingenious mechanic.

To acquire a true friend, and an amiable companion for our charming Princesses, I would propose a daughter of the worthy Archduke Ferdinand, and his highly accomplished wife, to be given in marriage to the Prince of Wurtem-

Wurtemberg, (the brother of the Great Dutchess) who is in the Russian service, with estates and the government of a province, to be given them by the Empress; and to make the union more desirable for the court of Milan, I would suggest, that one of their Archdukes might be married to one of the young Great Dutchesses, also to be established in Russia, and another of these Imperial Princesses given to the fourth son of the Duke of Brunswick, who bids fair to emulate the glory of his distinguished ancestors. These Princes and Princesses, equal in rank, and connected

nected by the nearest ties of con-
 sanguinity, would form an assem-
 blage of virtue, knowledge, and
 accomplishments, to be met with
 in no other court; and by the
 various ideas they bring from their
 different countries, would tend
 more to the rapid improvement
 of the Russian empire, than any
 other circumstance that could be
 imagined. They would also form
 a set of trusty friends and able
 advisers to the young heir of the
 August Catharine. For the mis-
 fortunes of Princes often originate
 in the base flattery and insidious
 counsel of their interested cour-
 tiers, who, like ivy, while it
 tends

tends to the external decoration,
preys upon the heart of the oak
which gives it nourishment and
support.

THE END.

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